

Wonderful Cause

There are many wonderful non-profit organizations that deserve our support. Let me tell you about one that I have worked with over the years called Alpha Project. The Alpha Project helps others help themselves. The result of this successful partnership has been improved services for District 7 residents and the City of San Diego.

The list of projects is long. For example, the City of San Diego contracts with Alpha Project to run the Neil Good Day Center on 17th Street. This center provides mail service, shower facilities, laundry facilities, employment opportunities and mental health counseling.

They helped District 7 residents by tearing down an abandoned crack house, clearing trash and drug paraphernalia from a makeshift homeless campsite, tearing down a neighborhood eyesore that was in violation of code compliance. Also, they helped by painting an elderly resident's house, cleaning up Mission Trails Regional Park, picking up trash and clearing shopping carts and junk out of a stream.

At my request, the Alpha Project is currently helping clear brush in Tierrasanta open space areas to prevent fire disasters such as we just experienced.

Bob McElroy founded the Alpha Project in 1986 with the goal of empowering individuals, families, and communities by providing work, recovery and support services to people who are motivated to change their lives and achieve self-sufficiency. San Diego men and women who typically would be lost in a downward spiral are now turning their lives around and finding hope and dignity thanks to the Alpha Project. I've heard their stories and seen amazing transformation take place.

I believe that words of support are not enough and so I've taken action to demonstrate my commitment to Alpha Project. Recently I allocated \$14,000 to the Alpha Project for a clinical psychologist for their Metro Hotel Supportive Housing Project and \$20,000 for the Alpha Project's Winter Shelter Program that runs from December through March in downtown San Diego. As we did last year, my wife Sally and I held an event called the Fall Fiesta benefiting Alpha Project at our home and raised an additional \$20,000. This City sanctioned event is a wonderful opportunity for the public to find out more about this amazing organization. Since we began the Fall Fiesta, we have received letters from people wanting to know more about Alpha Project and how they can contribute.

Most recently the Alpha Project came to the rescue of three Tierrasanta residents who lost their home in last month's fire. Their house was the only one in the neighborhood to burn down. However, part of the structure was left standing leaving the homeowners with the daunting task of demolishing what remained and then clearing the mound of rubble. Rod Luck of KUSI News did a high-impact interview with the homeowners, Bob McElroy and me as we helped them recover from the fire.

I invite you to learn more about Alpha Project by visiting their web site at www.alphaproject.org. Thank you for your support.